

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A device adapted to interface with a circuit breaker comprising an actuator operable within an actuator operation zone defined by movement of the actuator between a first pole and a second pole, said device comprising:

an actuator restrainer; and

a substantially planar actuator guard coupled to said actuator restrainer; in an operative embodiment, said device operable between:

a first position wherein the actuator is manually moveable between the first pole and the second pole; and

a second position wherein:

said substantially planar actuator guard is located outside the actuator operation zone;

said substantially planar actuator guard substantially prevents manual access to the actuator;

said actuator restrainer is positioned substantially within the actuator operation zone; and

upon direct contact of the actuator with said actuator retainer, said actuator restrainer substantially resists manual manipulation of the actuator from the first pole to the second pole.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein when in said second position said substantially planar actuator guard is oriented substantially parallel to a substantially planar face of the circuit breaker.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein when in said second position said actuator restrainer is oriented substantially perpendicular to a substantially planar face of the circuit breaker.

4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said second position does not interfere with an automatic tripping function of the circuit breaker.

5. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein when in said second position said substantially planar actuator guard provides visual access to the actuator.

6. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein when in said second position said substantially planar actuator guard provides manual access to a region of the circuit breaker outside the actuator operation zone.

7. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar actuator guard is integrally attached to the substantially planar face of the circuit breaker.

8. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said actuator guard is adapted to interface with the circuit breaker via a base component adapted to fit the substantially planar face.

9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said actuator restrainer is removably coupled to said substantially planar actuator guard.

10. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said actuator restrainer is integral with said substantially planar actuator guard.

11. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar actuator guard is adapted to interact with a lock receptor.

12. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said second position is securable with a locking device.

13. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first pole corresponds to either ON or OFF.

14. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the actuator is bridged to one or more additional actuators.

15. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein when the circuit breaker comprises at least one actuator positioned at the first pole and at least one actuator positioned at the second pole, in said second position said device substantially prevents manual movement of any actuator to an opposite pole.

16. (previously presented) A device adapted to interface with an actuator operable within an actuator operation zone defined by movement of the actuator between a first pole and a second pole, said device comprising:

an actuator guard; and

coupled to said actuator guard, a means for restraining the actuator;

in an operative embodiment, said device operable between:

a first position wherein the actuator is manually moveable between the first pole and the second pole; and

a second position wherein:

said actuator guard substantially prevents manual access to the actuator without said actuator guard penetrating the actuator operation zone;

said means for restraining the actuator is positioned substantially within the actuator operation zone; and

upon direct contact of the actuator with said means for restraining the actuator, said means for restraining the actuator substantially prevents movement of the actuator from the first pole to the second pole while preserving an automatic tripping function of the circuit breaker.

17. (original) The device of claim 16, wherein said actuator guard further comprises a means for interacting with a locking device, said locking device enabling the securement of said second position.

18. (original) The device of claim 16, wherein said actuator guard further comprises a means to substantially prevent detachment of the actuator guard from the circuit breaker.

19-26 (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a circuit breaker comprising a substantially planar face, the face comprising an actuator, the actuator operable within an actuator operation zone defined by movement of the actuator between a first pole and a second pole; and a securement comprising:

a base component adapted to fit on the substantially planar face; said base component comprising a lock receptor adapted to interact with a locking device;

an actuator guard adapted to interface with the substantially planar face of the circuit breaker via association with said base component; and

an actuator restrainer, said actuator restrainer ~~coupled to~~ integral with said actuator guard;

said actuator guard operable between:

a first position wherein the actuator is manually moveable; and

a second position wherein:

manual access to the substantially planar face is substantially prevented by said actuator guard;

said actuator guard is located outside the actuator operation zone;

said actuator restrainer is positioned substantially within the actuator operation zone; and

said lock receptor is positioned to interact with the locking device to secure said second position;

said actuator restrainer resists manual manipulation of the one or more actuators from the first pole to the second pole without interfering with an automatic tripping function of the circuit breaker.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said base component comprises a hinge receptor and said actuator guard comprises a hinge pivot shaft, said hinge pivot shaft is insertable through said hinge receptor to form a hinge, said hinge providing a hinged attachment for said base component and said actuator guard.

29. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein said actuator guard comprises a hinge receptor and said base component comprises a hinge pivot shaft, said hinge pivot shaft is insertable through said hinge receptor to form a hinge, said hinge providing a hinged attachment for said base component and said actuator guard.

30. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein said actuator guard defines a slot for insertion of said lock receptor.

31. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein said base component comprises a plurality of prongs that provide frictional attachment of said base component to the substantially planar face of the circuit breaker.

32. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein when in said closed position said actuator guard comprises one or more windows for visually accessing the substantially planar face of the circuit breaker.